

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows by replacing the identified paragraphs with the following corresponding amended paragraphs.

Paragraph beginning at page 5, line 20:

The individual transceivers are installed such that they are placed in an arrangement where the radiation patterns of the individual antennas 1, 2 . . . n overlap each other so providing to provide continuous coverage of the desired reader volume.

Paragraph beginning at page 6, line 23:

One problem encountered in existing systems is that a tag may be successfully illuminated and powered by the reader's energising field, the return signal from the tag may occur in a null in the reader's receiver antenna system. The system described in this invention overcomes this problem, because the control unit may command all the transceivers to receive simultaneously but for only one transceiver to transmit. The transceivers which are in the receive only mode act as diversity receivers, a technique well known-known in the art of radio communications but hitherto a technique which has not been applied to RFID. The transceiver receivers all listen for the tag response signal but perhaps only two transceivers receive the signal. These transceivers process the signal, decode the data stream and pass this stream along to the control unit (8) over the bi-directional communications bus (16). The control unit (8) will then select the best signal and after processing the data will pass this data along to the application via the application host interface.

Paragraph beginning at page 7, line 15:

In yet another embodiment of the system, two transceiver module antennas are arrange-arranged at right angles to each other such that a cubic reading zone is created by the overlapping radiation fields of the two antennas. The transceiver modules (10) are caused to transmit simultaneously thus creating a reader zone in which tags may be placed in any orientation and still be illuminated and read by at least one of the transceiver module antennas.